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September 27, 2012

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Attention: Lorenzo Miller or John Emmett
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of the Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 and High Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337
Expedited Waiver Request of Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc., Idaho Study Area 472295**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc. (Silver Star), by its attorney, and pursuant to Section 1.3 of the Commission's rules and the *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*¹, hereby submits an expedited Petition for Waiver to correct erroneous study area boundary data and to correct erroneous data concerning density, road miles and road crossings for its Idaho study area used in the quantile regression analysis model for limiting capital and operations expenses in the high cost loop support algorithm. In support of its request and as required by the *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*, Silver Star provides the Commission with a CD-Rom containing a WinZip archive with the required Shapefile showing Silver Star's correct study area boundary and Readme file with the information set forth in Appendix C of the *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*.

As shown in the shapefile, the boundary data used by the Commission in the benchmark methodology significantly understates the size of Silver Star's Idaho study area. In large part, this is because the Commission's data fails to include two of Silver Star's exchanges. In addition, the data used in the benchmark methodology for the independent variables concerning density,

¹ *Connect America Fund, High-Cost Universal Service Support*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 05-337, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 4235 (Wireline Comp. Bur. 2012) (*HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*).

road miles and road crossings is inaccurate. Accordingly, in addition to the boundary data, Silver Star asks the Commission to correct the following data:

1. The Commission's data shows a density for the Idaho study area of 2.795551 and the correct density is 2.629248 (see Exhibits 1, 2 and 3).
2. The Commission's data shows road miles for the Idaho study area of 2058.83 and the ESRI 2010 Street Map shows 2025.95 road miles (see Exhibit 4).
3. The Commission's data shows road crossings for the Idaho study area of 7010. The data in the ESRI 2010 Street Map shows 6,747 intersections, which indicates that there are 26,988 road crossings (see Exhibit 5).

In the *HCLS Benchmarks Implementation Order*, the Commission states that "when considering whether there are special circumstances and the public interest is served by granting a waiver of the benchmark methodology, we will be focusing on ensuring that accurate data is used to perform the necessary computations, regardless of the extent of support reduction."² All of the changes requested by Silver Star correct inaccurate data in the benchmark methodology. Accordingly, Silver Star's request meets the Commission's standard for demonstrating special circumstances that justify grant of an expedited waiver and that its request is in the public interest.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Silver Star requests that the Commission expeditiously grant this waiver request. Silver Star also requests that the Commission apply the corrections to the benchmark methodology effective July 1, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mary J. Sisak
Mary J. Sisak
Counsel for Silver Star Telephone Company, Inc.

Enclosure
Attachments

² Id. at para. 31.

Exhibit # 1
"Square Mileage"

Idaho Study Area

Alta WY

Driggs ID

Leigh Canyon WY

Tetonia ID

Victor ID

Irwin ID

WAYAN ID

Victor WY

Totals

FCC SQUARE MILES	SSC SQUARE MILES	DIFFERENCE	EXCHANGE	CLLI
	103.81		(307)353	FRDMWYXC
	143.02		(208)354	DRGSIDMA
	240.07		(307)576	FRDMWYXC
	270.90		(208)456	FRDMWYXC
	105.17		(208)787	FRDMWYXC
	424.33		(208)483	FRDMWYXC
	1,120.90		(208)574	FRDMWYXC
	51.05		(307)000	FRDMWYXC
2,197.52	2,459.26	-261.74		

Explanation:

Source Idaho PUC Serving area boundaries map and areas served

"Density"

FCC	SSC
Density	DENSITY
2.795551	2.629248

Idaho Study Area

Alta WY

Driggs ID

Leigh Canyon WY

Tetonia ID

Victor ID

Irwin ID

WAYAN ID

Victor WY

Totals

Explanation:

housing units/square mile

use 2010 census Housing units

use SSC square mile

Exhibit # 3

Housing Units

FCC Provided

Idaho Study Area

Alta WY

Driggs ID

Leigh Canyon WY

Tetonia ID

Victor ID

Irwin ID

WAYAN ID

Victor WY

Totals

6,466.00

Explanation:

2010.CENSUS.GOV/2010CENSUS/POPMAP

Exhibit # 4
"Road Miles"

Idaho Study Area

Alta WY

Driggs ID

Leigh Canyon WY

Tetonia ID

Victor ID

Irwin ID

WAYAN ID

Victor WY

Totals

FCC Road Miles	ESRI 2010 Street Map	ESRI 2010 Difference
	56.32	
	202.71	
	125.00	
	416.21	
	144.05	
	291.46	
	773.54	
	16.66	
2,058.83	2,025.95	-32.88

Explanation: 2000 vs. 2010 ESRI Road Miles

Exhibit # 5
Intersections/Road Crossings

	FCC Road Crossings	ESRI 2010 Street Maps Intersections	ESRI 2010 Road Crossings	ESRI 2010 Road Crossing Difference
Idaho Study Area				
Alta WY		159.00	636.00	
Driggs ID		1,186.00	4,744.00	
Leigh Canyon WY		224.00	896.00	
Tetonia ID		1,459.00	5,836.00	
Victor ID		794.00	3,176.00	
Irwin ID		1,262.00	5,048.00	
WAYAN ID		1,637.00	6,548.00	
Victor WY		26.00	104.00	
Totals	7,010.00	6,747.00	26,988.00	19,978.00

Explanation: Data Extraction From Esri 2010 Street Maps of intersections
Road Crossings = 4*Intersections

As stated in the Matter of Connect America Fund - High-Cost Universal Service Support, Order, WC Docket No. 10-90 and 05-Adopted: April 25, 2012 and Released April 25, 2012, by the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau:

Footnote 57: "NRIC reiterated the usefulness of the road crossing data in its comments. NRIC Comments at 25. Note that we calculate road crossings rather than intersections because counting intersections is computationally very burdensome. Two roads that cross at right angles (forming a plus sign) create four crossings. We believe that road crossings is a good proxy for road intersections."

Silver Star Communications has utilized this exact formula in deriving the information and numbers in this exhibit.